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Security Council

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Letter dated 16 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Acting on instructions from my Government, I regret to inform you that there are indications that Rwanda might be attempting to renew the fighting.

On 14 October 2003, citing false pretexts, including the old story about alleged assistance from the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to Former Rwandan Government Forces (ex-FAR) and Interahamwe, Mr. Charles Murigande, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Rwanda, warned solemnly of a generalized resumption of hostilities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo should, as he put it, Kigali feel "threatened".

On 16 October, the armed forces of the Rwandan Government which never withdrew from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, began — this has been and can be verified — to assemble their troops in the province of North Kivu, more specifically, in and around Rutshuru.

The Rwandan authorities have once again demonstrated how little heed they pay to Security Council resolutions and to the beneficial action undertaken on site by the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) with a view to restoring peace in the region.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo has spared no effort to extricate the country from the conflict — as pointless as it is insane — imposed on it by Rwanda and two other neighbouring countries and it does not want to see a further escalation. It has no interest whatsoever in the prospect of having fighting flare up again.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo believes that it is high time to put an end to the constant suffering of the people of the Congo and of the Great Lakes region and to restore order, peace and stability in that part of Africa which has suffered from instability for going on a dozen years now.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo urges the Security Council, the United Nations organ that has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, to shoulder its responsibilities fully and to take whatever steps it deems helpful and necessary in order to dampen the Kigali regime's enthusiasm for war by applying the measures provided for under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter against the leaders of that regime.

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In so doing, the Council should make sure that it does not take any measure that would hurt the people of Rwanda, who are our brothers, but only their leaders.

In addition, in order to stabilize the situation and spare the people of the provinces of North and South Kivu the agony and consequences of a possible resumption of hostilities with Rwanda, the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo believes that the Security Council and the Secretary-General of the United Nations should step up the deployment of MONUC to cover the area between Lake Albert and Lake Tanganyika.

Lastly, my Government urges the Security Council to help the Rwandan authorities so that they do not become the sole obstacle to the peace process in the region.

I should be grateful if you could have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Atoki **Ileka**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative